

TO DECLARE LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY A LEGAL HOLIDAY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

MAY 21, 1924.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state
of the Union and ordered to be printed

Mr. KELLER, from the Committee on the District of Columbia,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1641]

The Committee on the District of Columbia, to which was referred the bill (S. 1641) to declare Lincoln's birthday a legal holiday in the District of Columbia, having had the same under consideration, report the same back with the recommendation that it do pass.

The bill, which passed the Senate without opposition on March 14, 1924, reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the 12th day of February in each year, being the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, is hereby made a legal holiday within the District of Columbia, to be known as Lincoln Day, and in its observance and effect it shall be subject to all the provisions of law applicable to holidays within said District.

The effect of the passage of this measure would be the observance of Lincoln's birthday as a legal holiday in the District of Columbia in the same manner as is now provided for the observance of Washington's Birthday.

The Department of the Potomac, Grand Army of the Republic, has on several occasions unanimously indorsed the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Department of the Potomac, Grand Army of the Republic, in mass meeting assembled in the Congregational Church, Washington, D. C., for the purpose of eulogizing and honoring the name and principles of Abraham Lincoln, and believing that the time has come when his birthday should be declared a legal holiday in the same manner as the great Washington's Birthday has been made a legal holiday in the District of Columbia, respectfully but very earnestly petitions the Congress of the United States to enact a law declaring the birthday of Lincoln a legal holiday in said District.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted at the Fifty-seventh National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic at Milwaukee, Wis., on the 7th day of September, 1923:

Whereas the Department of the Potomac, Grand Army of the Republic, has on several occasions adopted resolutions requesting the Congress of the United States to declare Lincoln's birthday anniversary to be a legal holiday in the District of Columbia, in the same manner as Washington's Birthday anniversary has been made a legal holiday in said District: Therefore

Resolved, That we, the members of the Fifty-seventh National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, in regular session assembled, this 7th day of September, 1923, in the city of Milwaukee, Wis., believing that the time has arrived when the memory of Abraham Lincoln, the chief of the preservers of the Union of States, should be honored in the same exalted degree as the memory of Washington, the chief of the founders of that Union, earnestly and in full agreement, join with the Department of the Potomac in urging Congress to make the anniversary of the birth of Lincoln a legal holiday in the District of Columbia, where he rendered service of inestimable value to our country and the entire world, and died a blessed martyr to that righteous cause for which 512,000 of our comrades in arms during the Civil War "gave the last full measure of devotion."

The following resolution was unanimously passed by the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution on April 19, 1924:

Whereas a bill is now pending in the House of Representatives to declare the birthday of Abraham Lincoln a legal holiday in the National Capital; and

Whereas said bill was unanimously passed by the Senate of the United States on March 14, 1924, the bill having been previously unanimously indorsed by the Fifty-seventh National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic in regular session assembled on September 7, 1923, in the city of Milwaukee, Wis.; and

Whereas it is the sense of this organization that the time has arrived when the memory of this great man—statesman, patriot, President—should be thus honored in the Capital of the Republic: Therefore be it

Resolved, That the National Society Daughters of the American Revolution in Thirty-third Annual Congress assembled on this 19th day of April, 1924, in the city of Washington, D. C., where Lincoln rendered his greatest service to his country and to the entire world by the preservation of the Union, and died a blessed martyr for it, earnestly joins with the Grand Army of the Republic in urging the House of Representatives to pass the Lincoln Day bill during the present session of Congress.

The legislatures of 28 States have passed laws making Lincoln's birthday a legal holiday, as follows:

	Population		Population
California.....	3, 426, 536	Nevada.....	77, 407
Colorado.....	939, 376	New Jersey.....	3, 155, 347
Connecticut.....	1, 380, 585	New York.....	10, 384, 144
Delaware.....	223, 003	North Dakota.....	645, 730
Illinois.....	6, 485, 098	New Mexico.....	360, 347
Indiana.....	2, 930, 544	Ohio.....	5, 759, 368
Iowa.....	2, 403, 630	Oregon.....	783, 389
Kansas.....	1, 769, 257	Pennsylvania.....	8, 720, 159
Kentucky.....	2, 416, 013	South Dakota.....	635, 839
Michigan.....	3, 667, 222	Utah.....	449, 446
Minnesota.....	2, 386, 311	Washington.....	1, 356, 316
Missouri.....	3, 403, 547	West Virginia.....	1, 463, 610
Montana.....	547, 593	Wisconsin.....	2, 631, 839
Nebraska.....	1, 295, 502	Wyoming.....	194, 402
Population of the 48 States in 1920.....		105, 710, 620	
Population of the States which have made the anniversary of Lincoln's birth a holiday.....		69, 891, 460	
Population of States where not a holiday.....		35, 819, 160	

It will thus be seen that a considerable majority of the States of the Union have made Lincoln's birthday a holiday. It will also be seen that a large majority of the population of the entire country is in the States that have already made his birthday anniversary a holiday.

There is no doubt whatever in the minds of the majority of your committee that were this measure submitted to the American people for an expression of their opinion upon it an immense majority of them would most heartily approve the action of Congress in thus honoring the name and memory of Abraham Lincoln, "the preserver of the Union." In view of the fact that his greatest work was done here, that his life was sacrificed in the Capital of the Union as a martyr to the principles of liberty and self-government, "a government of the people, by the people, for the people," it seems both fitting and proper that his name and memory should be honored as Washington's name and memory have been honored in the Nation's Capital.

The names of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln, one the founder, the other the preserver, of the greatest and richest Republic ever established in this world, will not perish from the earth. Together their names are entwined in one immortal wreath, and in all the centuries to come will increase in brilliancy and continue as a beacon light to all inhabitants of the world who yearn for liberty, justice, and peace.

The majority of your committee, believing that Washington and Lincoln are America's most illustrious citizens, heroes, and statesmen, alike worthy and deserving of the highest honors of their country, which they served equally well, and believing that both should be honored alike in the matter of a legal holiday bearing their respective names, earnestly recommend that the House pass Senate bill 1641 to declare the birthday of Abraham Lincoln, President of the United States during the Civil War, a legal holiday in the District of Columbia.



